

The Cleveland
Museum of Art
11150 East
Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio
44106-1797

Picasso
and Things:
The Still Lifes
of Picasso
February 26-
May 3, 1992

**DAVID MURRAY OCTET TO PERFORM
AT THE ART MUSEUM
Wednesday, March 11, 1992, 7:30 pm**

Contact: Denise Horstman

"[David Murray is] the most powerful soloist to arrive in jazz in the last 10 years . . . always one of jazz's more important composers . . . he goes after, and gets, a sanctified type of transcendence. Peter Watrous, *The New York Times* (4/30/91)

"Wherever progress has been made in jazz this last decade, David Murray has been right there in the middle of things, making steady progress himself. . . Keeping an eye on David Murray might be a good idea for all of us hoping to gain an inkling of what's in store for jazz between now and the end of the century." Francis Davis, *Down Beat*

Saxophonist and avant-garde jazz composer David Murray mixes his gospel background with a reinterpretation of traditional blues and other jazz elements to forge fresh, energetic music. A free concert in Gartner Auditorium at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Wednesday, March 11, at 7:30 pm, will be the centerpiece of a two-week tour of the David Murray Octet. The concert will feature the world premiere of "The Picasso Suite," a work he composed especially for The Cleveland Museum of Art and the Northeast Ohio Jazz Society based on the jazz classic, "Picasso," a solo improvisation in about 1948 by the late renowned tenor saxophonist Coleman Hawkins. The event will be broadcast live over radio station WCPN-FM (90.3).

Murray's music, with its cubist qualities of jazz, manifests the relationships between the visual arts and music, and is an excellent complement to the Museum's 75th Anniversary special exhibition, **Picasso and Things: The Still Lifes of Picasso** (on view February 26 - May 3). Murray will play saxophones and bass clarinet; playing with him that evening will be

Hugh Ragin and Rasul Siddick, trumpets; James Spaulding, saxophone; Craig Harris, trombone; Dave Burrell, piano; Wilber Morris, acoustic bass; and Tani Tabbal, drums.

Murray is well-known as a leader of this and other ensembles, from trios to big bands, and as a founding member of the World Saxophone Quartet. The Octet has performed on numerous European, Japanese, and east and west coast tours; the current tour of the Midwest, New York and Pennsylvania includes stops in Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo. Murray toured the Midwest most recently in April 1990, leading a quartet that included Morris on bass, pianist John Hicks, and drummer Andrew Cyrille.

Murray has recorded prolifically on foreign and independent labels. He shares the 1988 Grammy award for best jazz instrumental performance group for *Blues for Coltrane: A Tribute to John Coltrane*. Columbia has recently announced that two David Murray recordings--one with quartet and one with big band--will be among the first four albums released as part of its new distribution agreement with jazz label DIW, one of the top five record labels in the 1991 *Down Beat* critics' poll. Previously available only as expensive, hard-to-find imports from Japan, these DIW/Columbia albums will be in stores March 3. (The other two initial releases feature pianist Harold Mabern and the Art Ensemble of Chicago with Cecil Taylor.) Additional releases of new and previously issued material by Murray will be announced in coming months.

Seating is limited and *free tickets are required* for admission to the Art Museum concert; they are available at the Museum Store and at Wax Stacks (on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights). Doors open at 6:45 pm. Ample lighted parking is available after 5 pm for \$2 in the Museum lot and parking deck.

At 10:30 am on the day of the concert, Murray and members of the Octet will present a workshop on improvisation and composition for area college music students. For further

information about the workshop, please write or call Nancy McAfee, Department of Education and Public Programs, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio, 44106; 216/421-7340, ext. 484.

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Tickets for the exhibition **Picasso and Things: The Still Lifes of Picasso**, which will be open the evening of the concert, are \$5 general admission and \$4 for seniors and students (free for members); they are available at the Museum Box Office or by calling Advantix at 241-6000 or 1-800-492-6048. United Technologies Corporation is making possible this international presentation and its catalogue. Additional support is provided through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ohio Arts Council and an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Continental Airlines is the official airline for the exhibition.

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